

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

OMB-01 RSR-01 /085 W

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R 230803Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5554

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E.O. QYTWC N/A

TAGS: PINT JA

SUBJECT: LDP MOVES TOWARD POSSIBLE EXTENSION OF DIET SESSION

SUMMARY: OVER WEEKEND LDP LEADERS MOVED TOWARD SECOND LENGTHY
EXTENSION OF CURRENT DIET SESSION DUE TO EXPIRE JULY 24 TO
SECURE PASSAGE OF KEY LEGISLATION NOW STALLED IN UPPER
HOUSE, AS PROSPECTS FOR UPPER HOUSE VOTE ON KEY BILLS GECEDING
RAPIDLY. END SUMMARY

1. ALL LOWER AND UPPER HOUSE LDP DIET MEMBERS HELD UNUSUAL
MEETING WITH SECRETARY GENERAL TOMISABURO HASHIMOTO AND OTHER
PARTLY LEADERS FRIDAY AFTERNOON FOR LENGTHY, HEATED REVIEW OF
STRATEGY TO SECURE PASSAGE OF KEY BILLS DURING FEW DAYS REMAIN-
ING OF CURRENT SESSION WHICH ABOUT TO EXPIRE JULY 24.

2. OPPOSITION PARTIES HAVE BOYCOTTED ALL UPPER HOUSE
PROCEEDINGS SINCE LAST TUESDAY WHEN LDP MAJORITIES FORCED
FAVORABLE COMMITTEE VOTES ON JNR FARE INCREASE, TSUKUBA
UNIVERSITY AND TWO DEFENSE BILLS (TOKYO 9223). IN PORTIONS
OF MEETING SHOWN ON NATIONWIDE TV, FEW LDP DIET MEMBERS
APPEARED TO BELIEVE THAT UPPER HOUSE PROCEEDINGS COULD
BE NORMALIZED IN TIME TO PERMIT VOTE ON THESE LONG-PENDING
BILLS, AND MAJORITY STRONGLY SUPPORTED MOVE TO GRANT

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AUTHORITY TO THREE TOP LEADERS TO DO WHATEVER NECESSARY TO

SECURE PASSAGE, INCLUDING POSSIBLE LONG-TERM SECOND EXTENSION OF VURRENT SESSION. YOUNGER DIET MEMBERS APPEAR TO BE LEADING THE CHARGE.

3. MEETING FOLLOWED THURSDAY VALL ON KONO AT HIS PRIVATE RESIDENCE BY LDP VICE PRESIDENT ETSUSABURO SHIINA TO REQUEST COOPERATION IN NORMALIZING UPPER HOUSE. KONO REPORTEDLY SET TWO CONDITIONS, (1) LDP ASSURANCE THAT IT WOULD REFRAIN FROM ARBITRARY ACTION IN DIET IN FUTURE, AND (2) LDP VOLUNTARY NULLIFICATION OF VOTE IT FORCED ON KEY BILLS IN THREE UPPER HOUSE COMMITTEES LAST TUESDAY. SHIINA APOLOGIZEB FOR LDP ACTION AND PROMISED TO CONVEY KONO TERMS TO GOJ AND LDP LEADERS.

4. GOJ SPOKESMAN DISCLOSED SAME DAY THAT PRIMIN TANAKA INCLUDED EXCEPTIONAL WRITTEN APOLOGY FOR LDP ACTION IN LETTER TO KONO REQUESTING HIS GOOD OFFICES TO RESOLVE STALEMATE.

5. HOWEVER, WITH KONO ATTITUDE DOOMING HOPE FOR RESOLUTION OF UPPER HOUSE IMPASSE, LDP THREE TOP LEADERS SATURDAY EVENING EXERCISED MANDATE GIVEN BY LDP DIET MEMBERS AND OFFICIALLY REQUESTED HIM AND LOWER HOUSE SPEAKER SHIGESABURO MAEO TO TAE STEPS TO EXTEND CURRENT DIET SESSION FOR ADDITIONAL 130 DAYS. CURRENT SESSION CONVENED FOR 150 DAYS LAST DECEMBER 22 HAS ALREADY BEEN EXTENDED ONCE FOR /5 DAYS ON MAY 19 (TOKYO 6260). SOMEWHATE RELUCTANTLY MAEO HAS STATED WILLINGNESS TO TAKE PREPARATORY STEP OF CONVENING LOWEG HOUSE STEERING COMMITTEE TO SOUND OUT VIEWS OF ALL PARTIES. KONO REPORTEDLY INFORMED LDP LEADERS SUNDAY THAT PROPOSED EXTENSION IS UNACCEPTABLE TO HIM, AND SUGGESTED THAT MEETING OF HEADS OF ALL PARTIES, OR THEIR SECRETARIES GENERAL, BE CONVENED TO DISCUSS RESOLUTION OF PRESENT IMPASSE.

6. KONO ALSO TOLD PRESS THAT HE HAS CEASED OWN EFFORTS TO MEDIATE COMPROMISE TO NORMALIZE PROCEEDINGS WHICH CALLED FOR UPPER HOUSE PASSAGE OF JNR FARE INCREASE WITH AMENDMENTS, RETURN OF TSUKUBA UNIVERSITY BILL TO COMMITTEE FOR ADDITIONAL DEBATE AS CONDITION FOR FINAL PASSAGE THIS SESSION, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND CARRY-OVER OF TWO DEFENSE BILLS UNTIL NEXT SESSION.

7. OPPOSITION PARTIES REPORTED TO BE ADAMANTLY OPPOSED TO SECOND EXTENSION OF CURRENT DIET SESSION. JSP AND KOMEITO HAVE ANNOUNCED INTENT TO RESIST ATTEMPT TO EXTEND CURRENT SESSION BY WHATEVER MEANS AVAILABLE.

8. IN VIEW OF EMPHASIS LDP PLACES ON PASSAGE OF KEY BILLS

DURING THIS SESSION, MOST POLITICAL OBSERVERS BELIEVE THAT LDP
IS PREPARING TO CONFRONT OPPOSITION AND USE ITS
MAJORITY STRENGTH TO FORCE THROUGH ANOTHER EXTENSION
RATHER THAN LET BILLS LAPSE.
SHOESMITH

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